

wear their swords, and their other arms to be preserved for them till the troubles were at an end. In all transactions with our forces, Montgomery wrote, spoke, and behaved with that attention, regard, and politeness, to both private men and officers, which might be expected from a man of worth and honour who found himself involved in an unhappy quarrel with his friends and countrymen.

Upon McLéan's retreat to Quebec, the party who had reduced him to that necessity, immediately erected batteries on a point of land at the junction of the Sorel with the river Saint Lawrence, in order to prevent the escape down the latter of the number of armed vessels which General Carleton had at Montreal; they also constructed armed rafts and floating batteries for the same purpose. These measures effectually prevented the passage of Gen. Carleton's armament to Quebec, which were not only foiled in several attempts, but pursued, attacked, and driven from their anchors up the river by the Provincials; so that as Gen. Montgomery approached Montréal, immediately after the surrender of Saint John's, the Governor's situation, whether in the town or aboard the vessels, became equally critical. This danger was soon increased by the arrival of General Montgomery at Montreal, where a capitulation was proposed by the principal French and English inhabitants, including a kind of general treaty, which Montgomery refused, as they were in no state of defence to entitle them to a capitulation, and were unable to fulfil the conditions on their part. He, however, gave them a written answer, in which he declared, that the continental army having a generous disdain of every act of oppression or violence, and having come for the express purpose of giving liberty and security, he, therefore, engaged his honour to maintain, in the peaceable possession of their property, of every kind, the individuals and the religious communities of the city of Montreal. He engaged for the maintenance of all the inhabitants, in the free exercise of their religion; hoped that the civil and religious rights of all the Canadians would be established upon the most permanent footing by a Provincial Congress; promised that Courts of Justice should be speedily established upon the most liberal plan, conformable to the British constitution; and, in general, complied with other articles, so far as they were consistent, and in his power. This security being given to the people, his troops took possession of the town on the thirteenth of November. Nothing could now afford the slightest hope of the preservation of any part of Canada, but the lateness of the season. Whether through inability for so great an enterprise, or from difference of opinion, the invasion of Canada was not undertaken until the season for military operations had nearly passed. To balance this there remained but a handful of regular troops in Canada, and the taking of General Carlton, which seemed nearly certain, would have rendered its fate inevitable. Fortune, however, determined otherwise, and at the time that all hopes of the armed vessels being able to get down the river were given up, and that Montgomery was preparing batteaux with light artillery at Montreal to attack them on that side and force them down upon the batteries, means were successfully taken for conveying the Governor in a dark night, in a boat with muffled paddles, past the enemies' guards and batteries, and he arrived